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State of Vermont

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation
Department of Environmental Conservation
State Geologist
Natural Resources Conservation Council

AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Department of Environmental Conservation

Hazardous Materials Management Division
103 South Main Street/West Office
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-0404
(802) 244-8702

CERTIFIED MAIL

June 25, 1992

Mr. Maynard Farr
Northern Petroleum Bulk Plant
P.O. Box 540
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

RE: Petroleum contamination found during a routine underground storage tank (UST) excavation in St. Johnsbury.

Dear Mr. Farr:

On December 17, 1992, the Sites Management Section (SMS) reviewed a site assessment report prepared by James Cote concerning the removal of two USTs at the Northern Petroleum Bulk Plant in St. Johnsbury on November 14, 1991. Contaminated soils were encountered during the excavation. The soil contamination extended down to the water table, and consequently a monitoring well was installed at the site. Due to the possibility of groundwater contamination from these two USTs, the SMS requested in a December 17, 1992 letter that groundwater sampled be obtained from the monitoring well within three weeks and analyzed. In addition, a written description of the monitoring well construction, including type and length of well screen, soil typed, and backfill materials and procedures was requested.

Based on this information, the Department of Environmental Conservation has determined the following:

- 1.) Two UST were removed from The Northern Petroleum Bulk Plant in St. Johnsbury on November 14, 1991; one gasoline and one diesel. Soil contamination and possible groundwater contamination were discovered onsite.
- 2.) A letter was sent to Maynard Farr of Northern Petroleum on December 17, 1991 requesting further site investigation.
- 3.) Northern Petroleum has not submitted a site investigation report as requested by the SMS.
- 4.) On June 10, 1992 the Management and Prevention Section was notified of a leaking UST found during a routine UST excavation in St. Johnsbury. Gasoline has been detected in the soils onsite, but no source of gasoline exists.
- 5.) The Northern Petroleum Bulk Plant is located directly across the street from the routine excavation site, upgradient of the site.

THIS IS SITE #92

AN ADJACENT RESIDENT

The Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) has concluded that the migration of these contaminants may present a danger to the environment and to the people in the vicinity of Northern Petroleum. She has concluded that it is necessary to take appropriate action to minimize the impact of these contaminants to public health and the environment. Title 10 V.S.A. Section 1941 provided that before expending state funds to perform the tasks outlined below, the Agency may provide parties that are potentially responsible for the release the opportunity to voluntarily perform the investigation and remedial actions under the direction of the ANR.

The State hereby gives notice that it believes Northern Petroleum is the responsible party under Title 10 V.S.A. Section 1941. The Secretary has concluded that the following actions are necessary to mitigate the situation and hereby requests Northern Petroleum to perform the following:

A. Retain the services of a qualified consultant to complete the items listed below.

1. Determine the extent of petroleum contamination to the soils, and the likelihood of contamination to the groundwater. Groundwater samples must be obtained from the monitoring well, and these samples analyzed according to the EPA Methods 602 and 418.1. If the well is contaminated, the following must be performed.

- a. Define the extent of petroleum contamination. This will include the installation of a sufficient number of monitoring well onsite, and may involve the need to investigate offsite properties.

- b. Determine the risk the contamination poses to nearby receptors. A brief description of land uses at adjacent properties must be documented.

2. Determine the need to develop a remedial treatment plan and long-term monitoring plan for the site. This should be based upon the results of the above requests, and may include passive and/or active bioremediation.

3. Submit a summary report providing a complete site map, the results of the groundwater investigation and and conclusions or recommendations which can be reached.

Please inform this office, in writing within five (5) days of the receipt of this notice as to whether you intend to complete the work described above voluntarily.

If you agree to do the work described above, you are requested to initiate these actions within ten (10) days of the receipt of this letter. Failure to do so by this date may result in injunctive relief or in the expenditures of State funds to have this work performed.

The Secretary may also move to expend State funds to have the work performed. If she does so, she will move pursuant to Title 10 V.S.A. Section 1941, to have The Northern Petroleum Bulk Plant reimburse the State of Vermont for the costs of the mitigation described above.

Sincerely,



William E. Ahearn

Director

Hazardous Materials Management Division

cc: St. Johnsbury Board of Selectmen